

The Chair, Jack Steiner at 7:00pm called the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting to order. Those present included George Lagassa, Lloyd Sullivan (Selectman), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

Questions & Comments

Bob Landman provided an update on the Seacoast MPO activities. Mr. Landman noted that representatives from the MPO had met with the Seabrook economic development group to discuss Route 1 improvements. It was noted that Seabrook is not currently a member of the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) and consequently not members of the MPO either. Members of the Seabrook economic development group were interested in participating in the Route 1 study and would join the RPC. Mr. Sullivan asked if the speed of the DOT in addressing the Route 1 problems would be slower than the number of businesses coming into Town. It was agreed that this was indeed the case. Mr. Sullivan also asked whether or not the DOT would be doing anything within the next ten years. Mr. Landman believed that it all depended upon funding availability.

Mr. Landman next updated the Board on his attendance at the PUC hearing concerning Vitti Networks recent bankruptcy filing. The general discussion at the PUC centered on the diminishing number of competitors in the telecommunication marketplace. The competitive balance was heavily in favor of the incumbent carrier Verizon and as a consequence higher prices for telecommunication services would be the result.

Building Inspector

Septic System Ordinance presentation

Paul Charron (Building Inspector) provided an overview of a proposed change of the septic system ordinance. Mr. Charron explained that North Hampton does have an ordinance concerning local approval of septic systems, but that the staff does not have the engineering expertise necessary for a thorough review. Most individuals submit their applications to the DES for review and approval. In some instances further review by his office reveals a conflict with local ordinances. Therefore, Mr. Charron proposed to utilize the services of the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) to review septic designs, test pit, placement, witnessing and installation. An engineer with RCCD, Mike Cumo, would review the application and propose recommendations. Mr. Cumo currently provides these services to Newfields and Hampton Falls as well as other communities. Mr. Cumo noted that most towns do their review prior to the State review and this process cuts down on delays for the applicant. It was noted that the current fee is now \$45. Mr. Charron suggested that the fee be increased to \$350. Mr. Lagassa asked why the increase. Wouldn't it be possible to apply the fee only to new systems? Mr. Charron explained that the DES does not allow municipalities to pick and choose which systems, new or replacement systems, the municipality can review. Mr. Cumo explained that he was compensated on an hourly basis. Therefore, if his review were brief his service fee would be less and the applicant would receive a refund. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to adopt the procedure and to implement the new fee structure and review process with new septic system application. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. It was noted that there had been 60 new septic system applications and 40 replacement applications during the previous year.

Selectmen Issues

Statewide Property Tax

Mr. Steiner began the discussion by noting that North Hampton was part of the Communities Coalition and as such was fighting against the statewide property tax. The recent ruling by the superior court declaring the education property tax unconstitutional called into question the legality of remitting payment of the tax to the State by the town. The Board felt strongly that it was necessary to follow the law and the recent Superior Court decision clearly ruled the present education funding law unconstitutional. Therefore, Mr.

Sullivan made the motion to withhold payment of the state portion of the education tax by placing the funds in an escrow account. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Mr. Sullivan read a proclamation celebrating Byron Kirby's 36 years of service to the North Hampton community and granting my Kirby honorary lifetime membership on the North Hampton Bandstand. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to approve the proclamation. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of January 22nd, 2001. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to accept the minutes of January 22nd, 2001 and to amend those minutes to include the mention of the introduction of the newly hired police officers David Pridham and Scott Stephens. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Minutes - January 22nd, 2000
- a. Payroll
- b. Manifest
- c. Veterans Exemption - Richard Glaeser
- d. General Election - Signatures required
- e. Pole License - Signatures required
- f. RPC - Coastal Communities Corridor mtg 2/14 8:00am
- g. [DES - Water quality testing](#)

A discussion about well testing and water quality from the DES ensued. It was noted that the correspondence from the DES alleged that contaminants had been found in several wells in North Hampton. The DES did not provide the specific well location. The DES letter suggested that homeowners with wells have their water tested on a regular basis.

- h. DOT - Driveway Permit Susan Smith / Kevin Gregory
- i. DES - Dredge & Fill
- j. EPA - Stormwater Management invitation
- k. Rockingham County - Admissions pending
- l. Executive Council Newsletter

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15pm. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to convene in non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator